All-star musical fest to greet Mandela

The Tribune

When Nelson Mandela visits the Oakland Collseum Stadium next Saturday, all eyes will be on him. S.F. BAY AREA

But until his arrival on stage. all ears will have plenty of entertainment: The event features a large lineup of musicians. many of whom have historical roots based in the African continent, who will play 5-to-15-minute shifts starting at noon.

The planned roster of per-

formers includes, in order of appearance (and subject to change):

Our Boys Steel Orchestra

(pre-show entertainment). Opening invocation and massed drum processing, featuring Baba Olatunji, Mickey Hart. Motherstone, Hintil Kuu Ka Pomo Children Dancers and Bay Area drum and dance troupes. with special guests Jerry Garcia and Bob Weir of the Grateful

Dead.

- **■** Tramaine Hawkins
- The cast of Sarafina!
- **■** Gospel Hummingbirds John Lee Hooker with Bonnie Raitt
- Bay Area Jazz All-Stars with Faye Carol, John Handy, Bobby Hutcherson, Ed Kelly, Troy Lampkin, Pharoah Sanders and E.W. Wainwright.
- Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

■ Machete Ensemble featuring David Belove, John Calloway, Bill Ortiz, John Santos and Wayne Wallace.

- Zulu Spear
- Kotoja
- Vukani Mawethu

Northern California Mass Choir.

Additional acts may join the lineup later this week. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 762-BASS



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IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE
OUR BOYS STEEL ORCHESTRA (PRE-SHOW ENTERTIAINMENT) * OPENING INVOCATION AND MASSED DRUM PROCESSION
FEATURING: BABA OLATUNJI / MICKEY HART / LADZEKPO BROTHERS / MANDELEO INSTITUTE / MOTHERSTONE / HINTIL
KUU KA POMO CHILDREN DANCERS / PLUS BAY AREA DRUM AND DANCE TROUPES / WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JERRY GARCIA
AND BOB WEIR * TRAMAINE HAWKINS * THE CAST OF SARAFINA * GOSPEL HUMMINGBIRDS * JOHN LEE HOOKER WITH
BONNIE RAITT * BAY AREA JAZZ ALL-STARS WITH: FAYE CAROL / JOHN HANDY / BOBBY HUTCHERSON / ED KELLY / TROY
LAMPKIN / PHAROAH SANDERS / E.W. WAINWRIGHT * OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR * MACHETE ENSEMBLE
FEATURING: DAVID BELOVE / JOHN CALLOWAY / BILL ORTIZ / JOHN SANTOS / WAYNE WALLACE * ZULU SPEAR * KOTOJA
* VUKANI MAWETHU * NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MASS CHOIR * PLUS ADDITIONAL ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

SATURDAY, JUNE 30 · OAKLAND STADIUM HIGH NOON

TICKETS: \$5.00. ALL SEATS RESERVED

CENTER'S CLASSIC COMMON RECORDS. THE PHE REPOSED MAD EMPORTURE USE MY CASE TED FOUR TOKE I UNIT PER CUSTOMER OF REMEMBER NO LANS BOTTLES ALCONOLING WEIGHBURS OF BOTHESTON HIS COLONIAL PLANS FEAST REQUIRER CAMERIAS AND CARL HARGE BY PHONE: 415/762-BASS • 408/998-BASS • 916/923-BASS

AKLAND GETS READ

City wants to shine in international spotlight

By Benny Evangelista
The Tribune

ITH. NELSON Mandela bringing Oakland into the world's spotlight Saturday for the first time since the Oct. 17 earthquake, civic leaders hope to put a positive spin on the city's tattered image.

"This is a golden opportunity for the community," said Melvin Tennant, president and chief executive officer for the Oakland Convention and Visi-

tors Bureau.

"This is going to pay off handsomely in the short term and in the long term in our efforts to improve and enhance Oakland's image," Tennant said.

At the center of the effort is the Oakland Convention Center and Oakland Hyatt Regency hotel, the Mandela entourage's headquarters for his two-day

Eastbay stay.

The earthquake placed a damper on Oakland's World Series party. And while San Francisco has since been able to bask in events like the visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mandela's visit brings the eyes of the world back to Oakland via an enormous contingent of national and international reporters.

"This can't help but focus on the positive things that the East Bay is going through," said Hyatt General Manager

Jerry Westerhaver.

The black, green and yellow flag of Mandela's anti-apartheid African National Congress was raised yesterday alongside the U.S., California and city of Oakland's flags over the hotel's entrance. The ANC flag replaced the once financially beleaguered hotel's own banner.

"Viva Nelson Mandela, viva the African National Congress, viva the people of South Africa," said the Rev. Simon Farasani, the ANC's Eastbay representative, after hoisting the

flag with Westnhaver. We're not just raising the hand of Mandela, we're not just raising the hand of the African National Congress, we're rais-



By Michael Macor/The Tribune

The Rev. Simon Farasani salutes after the ANC flag was raised outside the Hyatt Regency.

ing the hand of the South African oppressed people," said Farasani, the deputy bishop of the Lutheran Church of South Africa and former political prisoner.

Inside the hotel and the convention center, employees were painting the entrance, dusting light bulbs and setting up tables for Saturday night's gala \$100-a-plate Mandela dinner, expected to attract about 3,000 people.

The dinner, which will follow a sold-out appearance by Mandela at the Oakland Coliseum, is the largest joint event ever handled by the hotel and the adjacent convention center.

What started as a stand-up reception in the hotel's 10,000square-foot ballroom quickly blossomed into a sit-down dinner that moved the event into the adjacent convention center's 48,000-square-foot ballroom. With the demand for

See MANDELA Page A-10

Mandela.

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tickets high, both rooms will be used for the 6 p.m. banquet, although only a few obstructedview seats remain.

The three-course dinner features "boneless breast of chicken rolled with an herbed duxcelle filling, sauced with a cabernet sauvignon demi glaze and garnished with chives and enoki mushrooms."

But there will be no Coca Cola or other soft drink products because the ANC has objected to that company's continuing sales to South Africa, said hotel

spokesman Mark Mosher.

And to make sure Mandela is not offended, all of the hotel's Coke vending machines in areas where he will pass were rolled out of the hotel Tuesday night.

Only mineral water — Perrier is Mandela's personal choice — and California wines will be

served, Mosher said.

In their hotel suite, Mandela and his wife, Winnie, will find gifts of chocolate and an Oakland A's baseball cap and jacket.

Mandela coverage

The Oakland A's vs. Nelson Mandela's It's a tough call to make, and Channel 5 News Director Harry Fuller's hoping he won't have to make it. Just thinking about in, in fact, fills the exec with dread.

KPIX has ambitious plans to cover Nelson Mandela's historic visit to Oakland tomorrow. The station has scheduled to start its live coverage of Mandela's speech at the Oakland Coliseum

at 1:30 p.m., "unless he's late," says Fuller.

But the A's have an important ballgame tomorrow with the Toronto Blue Jays that airs on KPIX as CBS' Game of the Week starting at 10 a.m. It's the A's first time on CBS since that network bought the rights last year to Major League Baseball League Baseball.

If you figure that an average ballgame runs about three hours, the A's game should end

around 1 p.m. But what if it runs late?

"OK," says Fuller, a baseball nut himself,
"what if the two teams are tied in the 11th inning? Do we cut away to Mandela's speech live? That's when I'll be tearing my hair out.
"We'll make a decision on this at the time if

the game's still on," says Fuller, recognizing (pardon the expression) a no-win situation. Even though Mandela's speech is a major

event, cutting away from a close baseball game would be almost unthinkable. That is, unless KPIX really wants hundreds of hostile phone calls.

A BETTER SOLUTION might be to carry the speech on tape delay the minute the ball game ends. The odds of the game going into extra innings are long, and Fuller, looking for a silver lining, says hopefully: "There's always a possibility Mandela could be running behind schedule."

This possible complication notwithsteading

This possible complication notwithstanding, Channel 5 will offer extensive live (as well as taped) coverage of the Mandelas' trip to the Eastbay tomorrow. It will expand its 6 p.m. newscast to an hour tomorrow (the CBS network

news will air at 5:30 p.m.).

KPIX's Barbara Rodgers, who, if I'm not mistaken, was the only Bay Area TV reporter to cover the ANC leader's earlier speech at Yankee Stadium, will be with Mandela in Los Angeles

today and will file live reports.

The most ambitious TV coverage plans, as usual, belong to KRON.

Channel 4's coverage of the Eastbay Mandela visit will begin at 11 tomorrow morning, with Catherine Heenan and the increasingly ubiquitous Tom Sinkovitz anchoring KRON's coverage of the Mandelas' arrival at Oakland International Airport, with reporter Tom DeVries on the scene.

KRON, unlike KPIX, doesn't have a ballgame, so you can be certain of seeing Mandela's entire speech at the sold-out Coliseum live on Channel 4 at approximately 1:45 p.m. (KRON's Dominique DiPrima, along with KTVU's Dennis Richmond and KCBS' Valerie Coleman, a KRON spokesperson said yesterday, will be emceeing the festivities at the Coliseum.)

KRON will feature highlights of the Coliseum speech and also Winnie Mandela's talk in Berkeley on its 5, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts tomorrow, and KRON will carry Nelson Mandela's dinner speech at Oakland's Convention Center live to-

morrow night at 7:30.

Oakland's KTVU, on the other hand, plans no special coverage except for live and filmed reports on its 5 and 10 p.m. newscasts tomorrow. The same is true for Channel 7 (which has 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts), except that KGO has planned a 15-minute Mandela visit wrap-up after its 11 p.m. news.

Mandela visit excites Eastbay

By Craig Staats The Tribune

For the Eastbay's black community, Nelson Mandela's visit today is far more than a fund-

raising stop.

For many, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a genuine hero and maybe draw on his

inspiration in their own lives.

James Vann, co-chair of the Oakland-Berkeley Rainbow Coalition, said he marvels how Mandela has put 27 years of prison in South Africa behind him and stayed focused on ending apartheid in his homeland.

"His vision is toward the fu-

ture," Vann said. "Whatever was done to him is done. There's no bitterness at all. We have a tremendous amount to learn from him. We spend so much of our time casting blame and casting suspicions."

For some black residents of the Eastbay, though, Mandela's one-day visit holds no special meaning.

They don't expect it to touch their lives or have any lasting impact.

"I'm not that political," said one man, standing outside a Sal-

e VISIT. Page A-4

"Mandelamania" or attending tonight's \$100-a-plate dinner in his honor ought to worry more about problems in the United States first.

"I'm worried about my job, my country," said George Moore, 38, an East Oakland locksmith. "Let him deal with his

Continued from Page A-1

up with it."

vation Army center in downtown

Oakland. "I haven't really kept

the people who are embracing

Some of the skeptics say that

job, his country."
An informal survey of dozens of black Eastbay residents from all walks of life found, however, that most are excited about the

that most are excited about the visit and proud that Mandela included Oakland on his 12-day, eight-city U.S. tour.

"I think it's a fantastic recog-

nition of the work that been going on here in the Bay Area, specifically in Oakland," said Oakland City Council member Wilson Riles Jr. "It reinforces people's feelings that what we have done (on economic sanctions and divestment measures)

has been right."

"People are overwhelmed that he would honor Oakland with his presence," added Toni Cook, who just won a seat on the Oakland school board. "If we

100,000 people, I think we could get the crowd that we would need."

Many of those interviewed — well-known people and average citizens alike — said they ad-

had an arena that could seat

well-known people and average citizens alike — said they admire Mandela for the courage of his convictions.

The lesson he offers is the

power of perseverance, they said.

"He kept believing in what he

was doing, no matter what they

did to him," said Debra Arm-

strong of Berkeley, a government worker. "I think it shows that if we believe in ourselves, in what we're doing, we can make a difference, too." Rev. J. Alfred Smith Sr. of East Oakland's Allen Temple Baptist Church said Mandela

"redefines the meaning of manhood."

"To me, it's a message not only to the African-American community, but a message to the human race, that you can put a man behind bars for 27 years, but you can't break his spirit," Smith said.

Smith said.

Larry Reid, an aide to Assemblyman Elihu Harris, D-Oakland, said his only regret about the visit is that the late Supervisor John George, the progressive conscience of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

and stepping off a jetliner in Oakland. George died in 1988.

isn't alive to see Mandela free

"I sure wish John George was still alive ... That would have made his day, and the rest of his life, to see him free," Reid said.

Some people said the Oakland visit seems like a miracle because they never expected Mandela would get out of jail alive, let alone that they might get a chance to hear him speak at an arena or dinner.

"Seeing him is like seeing one

of our heroes," said Alameda

County Supervisor Mary King.

"For many of us, he was (actor)
Danny Glover in the movie. He
was an image, a symbol. I never
thought I'd be able to see him.
The visit brings it all home."
One of her colleagues, Super-

visor Warren Widener, said the

visit is a plus for Oakland, too.

"There was only a limited number of places he's going to and he picked Oakland," Widener said. "It makes a statement that a lot of us frequently make bout the quality of Oakland as a

community."

Others seconded that feeling.
"It's great for Oakland, to find
out what's happening in South
Africa," said Kevin Nelson, who

was sweeping out a room at the

a great leader. He cares about his country." All Americans can learn from him "if we listen good," Nelson

"He's a symbol of freedom, of

Oakland Peniel Mission on

Washington Street. "To me, he's

added.

humanity," said one 32-year-old Oakland man. "I think we can learn endurance, pride."

The man, who did not want to

give his name, said he hopes to attend today's rally if he can get a ticket.

"If I don't, the parking lot is

fine. Just to see him drive by, that'll be enough." Erik Carson, 14, of Oakland, said he hoped the Mandela's visit "will help the black communi-

"Like around here, it's not too clean," Carson said, pointing to a stretch of 8th Street, near Broadway. "There's a lot of people without jobs."

there are some in Oakland the event won't touch. One man picking up aluminum cans on 14th Street was

Despite "Mandelamania,"

One man picking up aluminum cans on 14th Street was asked what he thought of Mandela's visit.

He paused, then said: "I guess he can come if he's got the mon-

Mandela trip's impact Anti-apartheid activists

aim to retain momentum

By Benny Evangelista The Tribune

Nelson Mandela, a 71-year-old boxer-turned-lawyer achieved hero status in this country for his fight against apartheid, Saturday attracted a wide spectrum of people eager to welcome him to the Eastbay.

Now, in the afterglow of Mandela's short but electrifying visit, leaders of the Bay Area's antiapartheid movement said yesterday their next challenge is to find ways to keep their new, found recruits and strengthen the movement.

"It's our responsibility now to nourish that growth," said Nesbit Crutchfield, co-chairman of the Northern California Mandela Reception Committee and a long-time anti-apartheid activist.

Mandela, deputy president of the apartheid-fighting African



National Congress, ended his 11day U.S. tour Saturday after speaking at the Oakland Colisuem.

Mandela drew record crowds on his first visit to the U.S., a country that seeks and idolizes heroes, for his unbending fight against South Africa's white minority government despite spending 27 years in prison.

His inspiration seemed to cut through racial lines. The tour afforded tremendous positive publicity for the anti-apartheid movement, which the ANC needed to pressure the Bush adminis-

See SOUTH Page A-2

chances for New Orleans to host the Democratic Party's of the nation's strictest anti-abortion law has all but ended WASHINGTON - The Louisiana Legislature's approval

Abortion bill alters Demo convention plans

struggle builds steam in the U.S.

Continued from Page A-1

tration to maintain economic sanctions against the South Afri-

can government.

The tour's effect on Bush and the South African government remains questionable. But many people in the U.S. who did not consider themselves activists and were not part of the antiapartheid movement were inspired to offer their help in welcoming Mandela and his wife, Winnie Mandela, said Crutchfield, chairman of the Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network and coordinator of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement.

Crutchfield said he heard from people in church groups, labor unions, the business community and Asian, Hispanic and women's groups, an untapped

pool of support. Their offer included volun-

teering their services, providing free flowers, catering, answering phones and providing transportation.

"That was probably the most exciting aspect," Crutchfield said. "People who just came out of the woodwork."

Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock, who started the Berkeley City Council's move to become the first U.S. city to divest itself from connections with South Africa, said the visit exposed more

young people to the movement.

She noted that Saturday night's gala dinner - which Mandela had to skip because of a scheduling conflict - drew many young people even with the \$100-a-plate price tag.

To keep the Mandela fad from fading, movement organizers need to find "more concrete things to do," she said, such as getting more cities to follow Berkeley's example of banning the purchase of South African products or setting up more sister-city programs with black South African townships.

Hancock also said Mandela helped the future of the antiapartheid movement by giving thanks for the past support of the Bay Area and people such as the late-Alameda County Supervisor John George.

"It's seldom we have our present put in context with the past," she said. 'People celebrated a continuum of more than 20 years of effort.

She said Mardela's visit "was not an isolated visit by a superstar, but in fact the direct result of years of citizen effort by the people of this country and in South Africa."

Roger Wilkins, the tour's national coordinator, said Mandela's air of "king iness" also gave black people in America a new



Shielded by umbrella from the logo of Coca-Cola — which markets its product in South Africa, Nelson Mandela holds a Pepsi.

infusion of pride in their heri-

many of us African Americans reclaim some of our African "His presence here helped past," Wilkins said.

yoice in a diluted world

Good morning, it's "two

Since Oakland was con-

I'm not the only one. The

First the Gorbachevs and

days until Nelson (Mandela) comes to Oakland" day.

firmed as a stop on the Mande-

la's U.S. tour. I've been like a

kid waiting for Christmas,

checking every day to see how many days are left until Man-

area is electrified with the an-

ticipation of The Visit.



Brenda

now the Mandelas. The Bay Area is feeling like a regular Payton stage for the Great Leaders of Change. Too bad we have to

import the idea of leadership. But then maybe some of it will wear off.

dela Day.

I'm particularly proud that Qakland was the Bay

Area city chosen for the Mandela visit. Given our population and the city's anti-apartheid activism, it's a fitting choice.

Our city ordinance became the national model. The Eastbay is the home of Congressman Ron Dellums, who introduced the federal sanctions bill. There are so many people here who have worked so long for the destruction of apartheid, it will feel like a reunion when the Mandelas arrive.

Back in the '70s, when the movement was struggling to focus attention on the crime of apartheid, who would have imagined that one day they would see Mandela, not only free, but in Oakland? This is one of those rare occasions when dedication, hard work and determination are actually rewarded. Bask in it, bask in it, bask in it.

I've been interested to see how the Mandela trip has demystified the legend. The media is doing its usual job of overkill and overdo, an exercise that misses the point of whatever is suddenly in everyone's headlines.

But somehow Mandela resists the trivialization, bypassing the media gamesmanship of a Ted Koppel, inspiring reporters to forget their objectivity and applaud his arrival at the White House, moving congressional representatives of both parties to an almostcontinuous standing ovation.

Incredibly, the more we see of Mandela, before the United Nations or the joint session of Congress, the more the real man overshadows the legend. And that's saying something, given the enormity of the legend. No matter what lionized, idealized image you had of him, if you had never seen the man speak you could not imagine his power.

And it's not necessarily that he is such a talented speaker in terms of oratorical skills. I've listened to most of his speeches on this trip and he generally has a flat, unemotional delivery that sounds as if he's reading. If you compare him, for example, to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a master of oratory emotion, you'll see what I mean.

The power of Mandela and his speeches does not come from style, but from substance and background. It is what he is saying and the fact that he is saying it that gives his delivery the punch.

His message is simple and consistent. It has been the same for 40 years, with some very minor adjustments about the post-apartheid economy. For his entire political life he has talked about one thing - the destruction of apartheid.

It is that focus and moral authority that gives Mandela the stature that is larger even than the myth. For 40 years he has dedicated himself to abolishing apartheid and he spent 27 of those years in prison, thinking he would spend the rest of his life there, because of his opposition.

There are a few people who can claim that kind of dedication, but very few. It's a waste of time for negotiators or interviewers to try to play a game of political compromise with him, or any game at all. A man who gave 27 years of his freedom and his entire life to fighting an injustice is hardly a man of relative values.

The absoluteness of his vision is nostalgic, recalling the purity of our own country's civil rights movement. In fact there are interesting parallels between the history of race relations in the two countries, even though blacks and whites are in opposite numerical circumstances. I think black Americans have always felt that the liberation of black South Africans was the unfinished business that would make our own fight for civil rights complete.

Now our struggle is diffuse and complex. Our leaders are politicians with a compromised, negotiated vision. It may be the natural evolution of change, the process of normalizing race relations. But a leader with a singular dedication is refreshing and invigorating.

There is no comparison to our nation's leaders. We are living in a time of managed reality and relative truth, when an economy-undermining deficit is managed by lip syncing, when the flag symbolizing the country is more treasured that its children. The concept of a leader with a vision is relegated to history.

Mandela reminds us that it doesn't have to be that way, that you can fight for something, that you can believe in something. I think that's what makes him such an imposing and inspirational presence. In a world of relativity he is an absolute.

And he's going to be in Oakland!

I told you I'm excited. And I won't even apologize for gushing. Please expect more gushing to follow.

Now it's less than two days until "Nelson Mandela comes to Oakland" day.

Brenda Payton writes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.